

Zack's athletic prowess and leadership aptitude drove him to enlist in the U.S. Navy in 2004. He first served as an Aviation Ordnanceman onboard the USS *Nimitz* before realizing his dream of becoming a Navy SEAL. During his 16 years in the Navy, he became a highly decorated combat veteran with seven deployments and numerous awards for valor including the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, and three Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals with Valor, each for distinct heroic actions during combat operations worldwide.

Zack was a devoted son, partner, friend, and teammate. He was known for his unparalleled work ethic that was only matched by his endlessly positive attitude, sense of humor, and charm. Madam Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join Zack's family, friends, and teammates in celebrating a life well lived, recognizing the sacrifices he made for all of us, and extending our deepest gratitude for his service to our country.

THE SECOND AMENDMENT IS  
ESSENTIAL ACT OF 2021

**HON. DAN NEWHOUSE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2021*

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, The Second Amendment Is Essential Act will classify, by law, the firearms industry as a "critical infrastructure sector" and those it employs as "essential workers" by amending the Homeland Security Act of 2002 and the USA Patriot Act of 2001. The changes define any business or employees who manufacture or deal firearms and ammunition as critical infrastructure for the purposes of federal guidance to States during an emergency.

The Homeland Security Act of 2002 directed the Administrator of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to establish guidelines for States regarding who should constitute "critical infrastructure workers" in the event of a natural disaster, act of terrorism, or other man-made disaster. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, these individuals have often been referred to as "essential workers."

Similarly, the USA Patriot Act defined "critical infrastructure" as "systems and assets, whether physical or virtual, so vital to the United States that the incapacity or destruction of such systems and assets would have a debilitating impact on security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination of those matters."

Americans' rights, including the right to keep and bear arms, are no less essential during a state of emergency. In fact, the right to defend one's self and one's home is most essential during a state of emergency. Furthermore, states of emergency merit heightened vigilance to protect against unnecessary and unconstitutional government outreach.

In 2020, gun sales increased by 64 percent as Americans sought to exercise their Second Amendment rights so they could have peace of mind during a turbulent time. Firearms manufacturers and dealers should not be forced by government to close in a time when demand for their products is through the roof. This legislation will ensure that the Second Amend-

ment can be freely enjoyed by Americans when they need it most: in times of crisis.

THANKING CHARLENE BEST FOR  
HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2021*

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank my constituent, Charlene Best, for nineteen years of outstanding service to the United States House of Representatives. She retired on June 3 from her role as Manager with the Asset Management Department of Logistics and Support.

Charlene has had a very distinguished career prior to her House employment. In high school and into college, she worked with the Department of the Navy. After her graduation in 1995, she went to work for the National Science Foundation as an Administrative Assistant, followed by a stint with the Census Bureau from 1999 to 2000. Later, she worked as an Executive Assistant for Booz, Allen, Hamilton.

Charlene had long wished to be a House employee and began interviewing in 2002, earning a position as a Special Assistant for the Office of the CAO in the Office Systems Management. She quickly moved through the ranks and became a Supervisor and, eventually, Manager with First Call from 2007 through 2015, before moving up to her current position. Charlene also served as a Move Coordinator during the many Congressional Transitions and brought her special talents and expertise to Members of Congress and their staffs.

When asked about the highlights of her career, Charlene has said how much she appreciated the mentorship of her boss, Tom Coyne, Chief Logistics Officer, and she credits him with helping her to grow professionally. She has also cited one of her first supervisors, Carol Nichols, as someone who saw potential in her and invested time and energy to help her advance in her career.

One notable contribution that Charlene made to the House was her participation in the lying-in-state of Rosa Parks, for which she earned Congressional recognition. She remembers this event with sober reflection. In addition, one of the most cherished memories from her House career was being present in the Capitol for the first inauguration of President Barack Obama. While relaying the story to my staff, she recalled being in the hallway of the Capitol on the path leading out to the inaugural stage, when President-Elect Obama walked within ten feet of where she was standing and gave her a friendly wink prior to stepping out onto the stage. She loves to tell this story to demonstrate the great honors she has felt working for the U.S. House of Representatives.

Charlene, like so many House employees, had been teleworking during the COVID-19 pandemic, and she said that she felt lucky to have spent some 'home time' with her daughter Jordyn, a graduating senior. It was a welcome opportunity to spend quality time with Jordyn before she heads off to college in the fall. In retirement, Charlene is looking forward to enjoying more time spent with her family and pursuing other opportunities.

I hope all of my colleagues will join me in extending our congratulations to Charlene Best for her many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to this House. I wish her many wonderful and fulfilling years in retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF  
HERSHEL DEAN HOOD

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2021*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Hershel Dean Hood who passed away at North Mississippi Medical Center on May 16 of this year. I join countless others in mourning his loss.

For three decades, Hershel was a conductor for the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad. He served in the United States National Guard as a Master Sergeant and was the maintenance contractor at Tschudi Courts in Amory for 15 years. He was also an auxiliary deputy with the Monroe County Sheriff's Department for 17 years. Hershel was known and loved in his community.

At Cason Baptist Church, Hershel wore many hats. He was the choir director, a musician, deacon, and children's worker. He was passionate about music and a member of the Nite-Liters band and the Singing Prophets Quartet. His record "Little Band of Gold" topped charts in England and he was inducted into the Rock-A-Billy Hall of Fame. He frequently drummed for Elvis Presley.

Left to cherish his memory are wife of 56 years, Ann Oliver Hood; sons, Gregory Dean Hood and Andy Hood; sister, Judy Holman; brothers, Billy Ray Hood and Lamar Hood and multiple nieces and nephews.

I join countless Mississippians in mourning the loss of Mr. Hershel Dean Hood. He was a gifted musician, loving husband and father, and a leader in his community.

IN RECOGNITION OF OCCUPY THE  
CORNER DETROIT

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 2021*

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 8th Annual Occupy the Corner/Detroit event, an initiative hosted by Detroit City Councilwoman Mary Sheffield in Detroit for its continuous efforts and dedication to provide hope and resources to our communities within Detroit.

For eight years, Occupy the Corner Detroit has been an essential event and program to combat neighborhood crime and violence while promoting critical resources such as expungement program information, utility assistance, housing assistance and so much more. This annual event uplifts our residents and neighbors in 13th District strong and provides hope for economic opportunity for those that have been left behind or underserved.

Occupy the Corner Detroit is more than just an event. It truly signifies the importance of